



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT AND TEACHER QUALITY PROGRAMS

July 1, 2009

Patty Hardy
Director of Title II-A
Highly Qualified Educators
and Advanced Certification
State Department of Education
1535 West Jefferson Street, Room 100
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Ms. Hardy:

On April 14, 2009, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) submitted a response to the monitoring report that resulted from a program review conducted by the Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality Programs office of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. The program office team reviewed your State's progress in meeting the highly qualified teacher provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and your State's administration of the ESEA Title II, Part A Improving Teacher Quality State Grants program. Thank you for sending this response to the monitoring report.

This response, in combination with additional information submitted on June 11 and June 15, 2009, satisfactorily addresses the findings identified in the monitoring report. As a result of findings included in the monitoring report, ADE will ensure through increased technical assistance and monitoring that teachers in Title I programs are highly qualified at the time of hire.

In addition, the State developed a plan and a timeline for ensuring that it provides complete and accurate HQT data in its December 2009 CSPR submission. The plan outlines the strategies ADE will use to insure that all LEAs in the State report HQT data. In the past, this has proven particularly challenging in the case of charter schools that have a low response rate in annual data reports required by ADE. After receiving complete and accurate data from its LEAs, the State will correct the data reported in its state and LEA report cards and will insure that improvement plans or agreements on the use of funds are in place for LEAs that have not met the requirements outlined in 2141(a) and 2141(c) (respectively).

The Department will follow up with ADE to ensure that progress is being made on these issues and that all agreed upon deadlines are met.

During the State agency for higher education (SAHE) portion of the monitoring review, the program team determined there were no findings for the SAHE program.

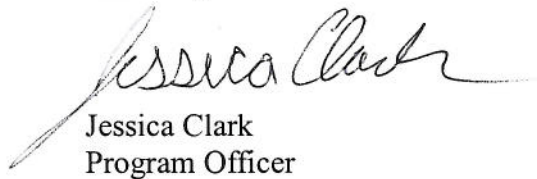
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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

We commend your excellent work in responding to the concerns raised by the monitoring report. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to ensure that all teachers meet the highly qualified requirements and to help improve the delivery of ESEA Title II, Part A services in Arizona.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jessica Clark".

Jessica Clark
Program Officer

cc: Vickie Walters
Maryn Boess

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Our mission is to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the Nation